4. Strengthening the nationwide Strategic Information Management System.

During the FY 2007-08, Rs. 75.3 crores has been earmarked as Central assistance to control the spread of HIV/AIDS in Andhra Pradesh.

Report on conduct of doctors

84. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken note of the conduct of doctors who recently have conducted medical check up of students of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in New Delhi as pointed out by Ashok Agarwal Committee;

(b) if so, the observation of the Committee against the doctors in this case; and

(c) the action taken/ proposed to be taken in the matter by the Government or the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bill on Clinical Establishments

85. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce a legislation in the Parliament to register and regulate all clinical establishments and penalise those establishment who fail to provide minimum standards of services;

(b) if so, the essential features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether State Governments have been consulted in the matter; and

(d) if so, the reactions obtained from each of the States, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) It is proposed to introduce a legislation namely the "Clinical Establishments (Regulation and Registration) Bill, 2007" in the current session of the Parliament. The Bill seeks to provide for registration & regulation of clinical establishments in the country.

A National Council shall determine the standards for clinical establishments, classify the clinical establishment into different categories, develop the minimum standards and their periodic review, compile, maintain and update a national register of clinical establishments, perform any other function determined by the Central Government, from time to time.

Further, no person shall carry on a clinical establishment unless it has been registered in accordance with the provisions of the proposed Bill. However, this would not apply to the clinical establishments of the Armed Forces;

The proposed legislation provides for maintenance of register of clinical establishments at the district level, State level and the National level;

Any person who contravenes any provision of the proposed legislation or any rules made there under shall be liable to be punished with fine.

State Governments were consulted while formulating the proposed legislation. Comments were received from State Government of Maharashtra, Goa and West Bengal and these comments were duly taken into consideration while finalizing the proposed bill.

WHO recommendations on AIDS

86. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has recommended that the doctors should urge all their patients to undergo the HIV test;

(b) whether Government propose to implement the WHO recommendations;

(c) whether Government have consulted NGOs working in the field in this regard;

(d) whether the HIV figures released so far, have found to be incorrect; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to correct these figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The World Health Organisation has recently released 'guidance on provider-initiated HIV testing and counseling' which recommends that in a generalized epidemic, doctors should urge all their patients, regardless of reason for coming to the health facility, to undergo HIV testing and counseling. The guidance does not recommend HIV testing and counseling to all persons attending health facilities in settings with low and concentrated epidemics, except for those who present to health facilities with signs and symptoms suggestive of underlying HIV infection, including tuberculosis and to children known to have been exposed perinatally to HIV. The guidance recommends that in low and concentrated epidemics the decision to implement provider initiated testing and counseling should be guided by an assessment of the epidemiological and social context. It recommends that consideration may be given to health facilities/services such as STI services, health services for most at risk populations, antenatal, child birth and post partum services and tuberculosis services for implementation of provider initiated testing and counseling.

(b) Provider initiated testing and counseling is being implemented in the Integrated Counseling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) only for clients referred by medical providers such as patients who present in a health facility with symptoms and signs suggestive of HIV/AIDS including patients with pneumonia, tuberculosis or persistent diarrohea, patients attending health facilities for conditions that could be associated with HIV such as sexually transmitted infections and for pregnant women who register at antenatal clinics.

(c) Operational Guidelines related to implementation of Integrated counseling and testing services were finalized in consultation with Technical Resource Group which comprises of experts including representatives of non-governmental organizations.